THE NEW INQUISITION Cult Awareness or the Cult of Intelligence?

A selfappointed cultbusting group has been found to have sinister roots and a very suspicious agenda.

Part 2

by Glenn Krawczyk

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Another psychiatrist to conduct pre-trial medical examinations on Patty Hearst was Dr Robert Jay Lifton of Yale University, author of several major works on coercive persuasion and thought-reform techniques, and another of the Cult Awareness Network's stable of regular consultants. Lifton pronounced Hearst a "classic case" which met all the psychological criteria of a coerced prisoner of war. Margaret Singer, who had previously worked with Lifton at the Walter Reed Army Hospital on a study of Chinese behaviour-modification techniques, was also called in by West to conduct a battery of tests on Hearst. She concluded that Hearst was "sad, hopeless...withdrawn, emotionally distressed and expressing a silent cry for help".¹⁸

In 1989, in the case US vs Fishman, Margaret Singer's testimony regarding the alleged brainwashing techniques employed by religious/political groups against their members was dismissed by Judge D. Lowell Jensen who stated:

"Although the record before the court is replete with declarations, affidavits and letters from reputable psychologists and sociologists who concur with the thought-reform theories propounded by Dr Singer and Dr Ofshe, the government has submitted an equal number of declarations, affidavits and letters from reputable psychologists and sociologists who disagree with their theories... A more significant barometer of prevailing views within the scientific community is provided by professional organisations such as the American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Sociological Association (ASA). The evidence before the court, which is detailed below, shows that neither the APA nor the ASA has endorsed the views of Dr Singer and Dr Ofshe on thought reform... At best, the evidence establishes that psychiatrists, psychologists and sociologists disagree as to whether or not there is agreement regarding the Singer-Ofshe thesis. The court therefore excludes defendant's proffered testimony."

This was not the first time Singer's theories had been rejected. In 1986, Singer had initiated and headed a Task Force on Deceptive and Indirect Methods of Persuasion and Control for the American Psychological Association's Board of Social and Ethical Responsibility for Psychology (BSERP). The Task Force produced a 69-page report which openly attempted to the make CAN's definitions of "cults", "brainwashing", etc. official APA usage. On 11th May 1987, the APA officially rejected the report, stating:

"BSERP...is unable to accept the report of the Task Force. In general, the report lacks the scientific rigor and evenhanded critical approach necessary for APA imprimatur.

"The Board cautions the Task Force members against using their past appointment to imply BSERP or APA support or approval of the positions advocated in the report. BSERP requests that Task Force members not distribute or publicize the report without indicating that the report was unacceptable to the Board." (BSERP, 1987)⁹⁹

Nearly 20 years after the Hearst trial, the theories espoused by Dr Singer and her fellow CAN consultants have still not gained the support of the wider medical community, and yet they are regularly paraded before the public, the government, law enforcement agencies and the courts as "experts" on the behaviour of "cults".

The Revolving Door Syndrome

One could conclude that there is nothing unusual about three national security establishment-linked behaviour-modification specialists examining Patty Hearst and later joining forces to fight for 'personal freedom' as they have with the Cult Awareness Network. However, if you keep digging you will quickly discover that in both the case of the Symbionese Liberation Army kidnapping of Patty Hearst and the Jonestown massacre, the 'revolving door syndrome' is clearly at work. In other words, the people offering to put out the blaze are sleeping with the people who lit it in the first place.

Funding for West's violence research centre was raised by the Californian Health and Welfare Agency's (HEW) sccretary, Dr Earl Brian. He garnered considerable support from the US Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), an organisation that, as has been revealed during congressional civil rights investigations, had funded 537 research projects dealing with medical procedures such as psychosurgery, non-surgical behaviour-modification techniques, and drugs for the control of delinquency. HEW also funded a large number of further behaviour-modification programs both directly and through its subagency, the National Institutes of Mental Health.20

It has also been revealed in declassified documents that the LEAA acted as a front for CIA behaviour-modification experiments conducted during the MKULTRA program. During MKUL-TRA, tests were conducted on unwitting and poorly informed citizens, prison inmates and servicemen, using psycho-active drugs, hypnosis, sensory deprivation, electroconvulsive therapy, electroshock treatment (ECT), psychosurgery, deep sleep therapy, biological agents (i.e., chemical weapons), "harassment substances", brain concussion, stress, electronic brain stimulation (ESB), electronic brain implants, electromagnetic radio-frequency energy, and many other techniques.²¹ They were applied to subjects in any

combination that showed promise for influencing or controlling human behaviour. No stone was left unfurned.

Not coincidentally, it was during the period of Reagan's tenure as Governor of California that the LEAA pushed for the development of a National Population Surveillance Computer System within the USA. R&D programs for computer software to run such a surveillance system were funded by the LEAA from at least as early as 1970. One such program was called the Prosecutor's Management Information System, or PROMIS. Around that time, anti-Vietnam War protesters were particularly active and 'alternative' religious organisations were multiplying rapidly, particularly in California.

Before serving in Reagan's cabinet,

Earl Brian had been a combat physician involved in Operation Phoenix, the CIA's controversial Vietnam War assassination program²², during which some of the agency's most bizarre behaviourmodification field experiments were conducted. Operation Phoenix provided the CIA with an endless supply of Vietcong POWs on which to test surgically implanted radio transceivers that had the capacity to transmit data to remotely located computers for electronic tracking purposes, and receive signals for behaviourmodification purposes. No doubt it was here that Brian became versed in the art of psychological warfare and aware of the potential of widespread computer surveillance to control a target population.

Not surprisingly then, in 1974 Brian was adamant that California needed the draconian violence research centres. When the public and political uproar generated by concerned individuals finally caused the cancellation of the project, Brian's final public statement on the matter was that the decision to cut off funding represented "a callous disregard for public safety".23 (It is interesting to note that the first People's Temple party left California for the Jonestown camp in Guyana in early 1974, the very same year.

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Operation Phoenix provided the CIA with an endless supply of Vietcong POWs on which to test surgically implanted radio transceivers that had the capacity to transmit data to remotely located computers for electronic tracking purposes, and receive purposes.

The lease on the Jonestown site ran for five years, running out just one month after the massacre.)

The original concept for violence research centres was the brainchild of William Hermann, a counter-insurgency expert for Systems Development Corporation, and an adviser to Governor Reagan who was working out a "pacification plan" for California. Hermann told The Los Angeles Times that a good computer intelligence system "would separate out the activist bent on destroying the system" and then develop a master plan "to win the hearts and minds of the people".24

Hermann had also worked with the Rand Corporation, the Stand Research Institute and the Hoover Center on Violence. He has been named as a CIA agent, is currently serving an eight-year sentence in an English prison for his role in a CIA counterfeiting operation, and is directly linked to the Iran-Contra Affair according to government records and his own testimony. The London Sunday Telegraph confirmed Hermann's CIA connections, tracing them from 1976 to 1986. This information was also revealed at his London trial. The San Francisco Bay Guardian has identified him as an arms dealer working in Iran during the 1980s, and has also linked him to the October Surprise.2 Hermann's relationship with Earl Brian allegedly extends from the early '70s through to

> his current imprisonment, and to all the scandals that Brian and the Reagan-Bush administrations have been associated with in between. (Brian was himself named by former Israeli intelligence operative Ari Ben-Menashe as having been present during the payment of US\$40 million to the Iranians to stall the release of the American hostages during the October Surprise operation, and he has also been named by other sources as a CIA agent.26)

In 1970, Hermann worked as CIA control officer to Colston Westbrook, a former CIA psychological warfare expert who had served in Vietnam and also advised the Korean Central Intelligence Agency and the Lon Nol regime in Cambodia. Between 1966 and

1969 he was an adviser to the Vietnamese Police Special Branch under the cover of working as an employee of Pacific Architects and Engineers, the firm contracted to construct the forty-four interrogation/torture centres, known as Provincial Interrogation Centers, that were erected in Vietnam as part of the CIA's Phoenix program. Westbrook at the time was in the process of forming the Black Cultural Association at Vacaville Medical Facility, a state prison in California. (The Vacaville State Medical Facility is also notorious for its long history of behaviour-control experimentation. As recently as July 1991, The Napa Sentinel reported that three inmates had died as a result of being forced to take behaviour-modification drugs, so little has changed.)

The "black" organiser of the Black Cultural Association, which was a cover for a pilot behaviour-modification project²⁷, was Donald De Freeze, who between 1967 and 1969 had worked for the Los Angeles Police Department's Public Disorder Unit. He would later become known to the public as the infamous leader of the Symbionese Liberation Army. It was CIA psychological warfare expert Colston Westbrook who gave DeFreeze the name "Cinque Mtume", which meant "fifth prophet", and who designed

signals for behaviour-modification

the SLA's intentionally fear-inspiring logo, a seven-headed cobra.²² No doubt it was also Westbrook and his fellow CIA psywar specialists who helped program De Freeze for his starring role as "Public Enemy Number One" for the year 1974.

Black Operations-White Nights

We have already seen that suspicions of CIA involvement in Jonestown were raised soon after the dubious circumstances surrounding deaths of the 912 men, women and children whose bodies were recovered. Even before the massacre, however, suspicions that the CIA was using Jonestown as a base for mind-control and medical experimentation had led Californian Democrat Senator Leo Ryan to investigate. By that time, Ryan had already placed himself in an adversarial position with the CIA:

"Though his style did not change between the Californian Assembly and the United States Congress, the subject of his investigations did. In California, Ryan had pursued a wide variety of issues, but in Washington he would focus his work on one main topic: the domestic operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. His interest in the CIA became the dominant factor in Ryan's life and his death in Guyana.

"Congressman Ryan's concern over the CIA's domestic spy operations was legitimate and wellfounded. It had been reported that there were more intelligence agents illegally operating in Ryan's San Mateo County and the adjacent Santa Clara County than in all other parts of the United States combined, Washington, DC included.

"It was not until years later, when such activities were under threat of exposure, that the CIA persuaded Ronald Reagan to amend their charter to sanction what they had been doing for years. But at the time, the CIA was illegally operating in California.

"It suffices to say that by 1972, when Leo Ryan was first elected to Congress, the CIA operations in his home district were massive, illegal, threatening, and very much out of control.

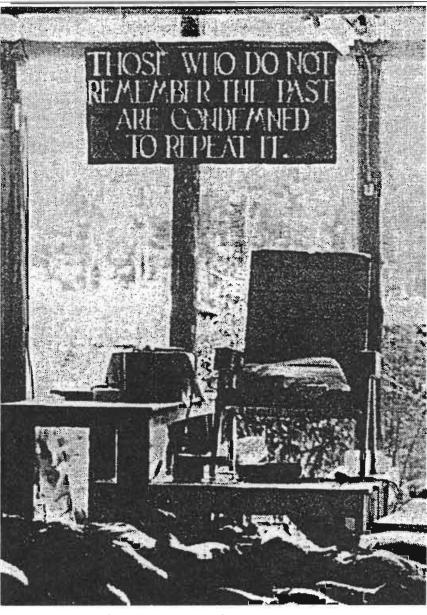
"Immediately upon arriving in Washington, as if it were the primary reason he had campaigned for Congress, Ryan drafted an amendment intended to stop, or at least control, the CIA's illegal operations in Silicon Valley and elsewhere within the United States. The Hughes-Ryan Amendment to the National Assistance Act would be the only major piece of legislation Ryan would introduce in his six years in Congress. The amendment transferred responsibility for overseeing the CIA from the Armed Forces Committee, which often turned a blind eye to the agency's activities, to the International Relations Committee of both houses of Congress.

"The CIA fought Congressman Ryan tooth and nail (or more aptly, cloak and dagger) and would have successfully defeated the legislation if it were not for Ryan's impeccable timing. He introduced the legislation at the height of the Watergate scandal when the public was shocked to learn of the crimes of Howard Hunt and other agency operatives in the United States. Despite the agency's strong objections, the Hughes-Ryan Amendment passed into law, earning Leo Ryan two distinctions: a seat on the International Relations CIA Oversight Committee, and a very prominent position on the CIA's list of enemies.

"...during the course of his investigation, he uncovered evidence to support the contention that the CIA had sponsored several cults that practised mind control on their members. The cults were not a matter of national security but experiments in the control of people for power and profit—a clear violation of human rights. Ryan set out to expose these CIA cults in what might have be compared to a blind man kicking a crocodile. The agency did not cooperate with Ryan's demand for information, for if they had, they would have told him about Jim Jones, and they did not.

"Ryan discovered that the CIA cults, like their business fronts, were difficult to identify and monitor, as they were designed to be financially self-sufficient. The agency could then account for every dollar of their congressional budget without divulging their profit-making operations or the projects these operations helped to finance.

"The first cult Ryan investigated was the Unification Church, whose leader, the Reverend Sung Myung Moon, was alleged to have strong ties with the CIA in Korea. Ryan lacked hard evi-



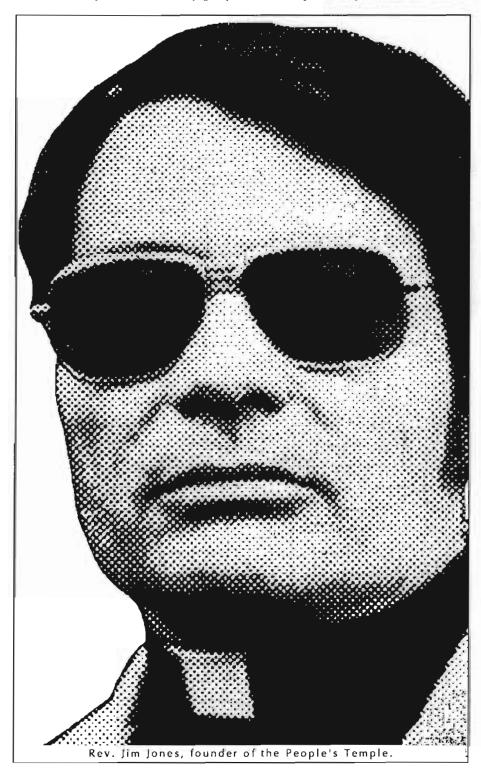
Prophetic sign above Jim Jones' 'throne' at Jonestown, Guyana.

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dence and, apparently, the ability to convince other members of his committee that there was a conspiracy, and so his colleagues successfully stopped the investigation. In his frustration at the failure of his efforts, Ryan was quoted as saying, Well, **something has** to be done about these people'.

"The next alleged CIA cult to come to Ryan's attention was the Symbionese Liberation Army, the revolutionary group who kidnapped and brainwashed millionaire heiress, Patricia Hearst."²⁹

During Senator Ryan's inspection of the Jonestown compound on 15th November 1978, he was threatened by one of Jim Jones' aides who held a six-inch fishing knife to his chest while holding him in an arm-lock by the throat. Then, approximately one-and-a-half hours later, whilst his party was preparing to fly out from the dirt airstrip at nearby Port Kaituma with a



handful of frightened People's Temple members, Ryan and four others were shot dead. Larry Layton, the man later charged with shooting Congressman Ryan, was the son of Dr Laurence Layton, a former Chief of Chemical Warfare for the US Army, and allegedly a specialist in ethnic behaviour-modification drugs tested during the CIA's MKULTRA program.³⁰

Whatever horror actually killed the residents of Jonestown took place within hours of Ryan's assassination in what has become known since as "The White Night".

The first report of the tragic event hit the front page of *The New York Times* on 20th November 1978:

"Guyana Official Reports 300 Dead at Religious Sect's Jungle Temple — Troops Find Bodies — Mass Suicide is Indicated after Attack on Americans in which 5 were Slain." Within another two days the headlines read: "US Copters Reach Guyana to Aid Jungle Hunt for Cult Survivors — Up to 500 may be Lost in Wild Area."

One week later, these 500 missing individuals also mysteriously turned up dead where the first bodies were found. Newspapers reported they had been hidden under the other bodies all along, but one can only speculate on what really happened to them in between the first and last body counts. Clearly, 500 bodies could not be obscured by an initial 300 in any case.

On 4th December 1978, just two weeks after the first public report of the massacre appeared, *Time* magazine ran the story that typifies the widely accepted "mass suicide" version of Jonestown. One part of the article reads:

"Psychiatrists and other experts on group psychology and mind-control techniques offered rational explanations of how humans can be conditioned to commit such irrational acts."³¹

Amongst the psychologists quoted by *Time* was Dr Margaret Singer, who it would seem is expert enough to offer a "rational" explanation for mass-media purposes, but not scientific enough for the American Psychological Association or the courts to endorse her views. Both Louis Jolyon West and Robert J. Lifton also wrote articles reinforcing the 'official' version of events.

And the Door Revolves and Revolves

An investigation by the House Intelligence Committee found that there "was no evidence at all" to support claims that the CIA was involved in Jonestown. However, critics dismiss the report as nothing more than another government whitewash in the long tradition of the Warren Commission, Watergate, Iran-Contra, and so on. If there was no national security establishment involvement, then why was so much of the evidence classified?

When The New York Times published their one-column report on the House Committee's findings, they placed it immediately next to a three-column article entitled "C.I.A. Linked to Mind-Control Drug Experiments".² A hint perhaps?

On 12th May 1981, *The Globe*, a Canadian paper, published a one-page article by William Harris, entitled "Jim Jones Still Alive in Brazil", which began:

"Jim Jones, former cult leader and CIA agent, escaped the People's Temple massacre in Guyana and is now hiding out in Brazil, according to sensational new evidence."

The article also quoted from the lawsuit

brought against the State Department by Senator Ryan's family which labelled Jonestown "a mass mind-control CIA experiment", and named at least two CIA operatives involved in the Jonestown operation. It also quoted Joe Holsinger, Leo Ryan's long-time friend and attorney, who had publicly declared:

"The more I investigate the mysteries of Jonestown, the more I am convinced there is something sinister behind it all. There is no doubt in my mind that Jones had very close CIA connections. At the time of the tragedy, the

Temple had three boats in the water off the coast. The boats disappeared shortly afterwards. Remember, Brazil is a country that Jones is very familiar with. He is supposed to have money there. And it is not too far from Guyana. My own feeling is that Jones was ambushed by CIA agents who then disappeared in the boats. But the whole story is so mind-boggling that I'm willing to concede he escaped with them."³³

The article also quoted a Guyanese official who said, "A lot of people here believe that Jones had a double who died at Jonestown and that Jones himself is still alive", and it pointed out the fact that there were 1,200 residents at Jonestown but only 912 bodies were found after the massacre. Around 300 US passport-holders were never accounted for. The article suggested "They may have fled to another country".

A Perfect Time for Death

The timing of the Jonestown massacre may well have been dictated by domestic

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events within the US—or is it merely coincidence that the very same month that Jonestown dominated headlines both at home and abroad, the House Select Committee on Assassinations was busy hearing allegations of CIA plots to kill politicians and activists at home and abroad, which subsequently did not make the headlines?

"Numerous journalists and finally the House Select Committee on Assassinations tied the Bay of Pigs, anti-Castro CIA cadre to the assassination of President Kennedy. The House Committee concluded that there was "probably" a conspiracy behind the Kennedy assassination and, though it declined to name any conspirators, investigated several CIA, Cuban and organised crime figures as possible suspects."³⁴

Certainly if the CIA and its partners in crime required a distraction from the hearings, Jonestown provided it. Furthermore,

It seems entirely plausible that Jonestown might have been timed to influence a major congressional investigation in which the CIA stood to have its dirtiest laundry aired before the public.

> it served to discredit lawyer Mark Lane who had previously represented James Earl Ray, the man convicted of assassinating Martin Luther King, Jr, and had coauthored a book on the conspiracy behind his assassination. Lane had also represented Lee Harvey Oswald's wife Marina, and his best-selling book, *Rush to Judgement*, raised early doubts about the Warren Commission report and made him the foremost independent authority on the Kennedy assassination.

> "So convincing was his evidence that Lane succeeded in petitioning the government for a second official investigation; the House Select Committee on Assassinations scheduled their hearings for November 1978. As Lane was preparing his testimony and supporting witnesses, he was contacted by Terri Buford of the People's Temple. Buford asked Lane to represent Jim Jones whom she claimed was being harassed by the CIA. Encouraged by a large retainer and the promise that Jones had information about

the CIA that would be valuable in his research, Lane accepted the case and travelled to Jonestown in September 1978 to meet his new client. Upon his return to the United States in October, Lane announced in a press conference that he was favourably impressed with Jonestown and agreed to represent the People's Temple..."³⁵

Lane was at Jonestown when the massacre began, as Jim Jones had refused to allow Congressman Ryan's party to inspect the camp until he was present, but when the serious business began, he was allowed to escape into jungle.

'Only days later, he stood before the Select Committee- on House Assassinations, still shaken from the experience in Jonestown. He was upset and disorganised. Actually, Lane had been completely discredited by his association with Jim Jones. Terri Buford, who reputedly defected from Jonestown only three weeks before the massacre, moved into Lane's Memphis home to help him write an account of his experience, entitled The Strongest Poison. Attesting to Lane's investigative abilities, the book is wellreferenced and detailed, but Buford's influence served to suppress the truth. If Lane's career as an expert on CIA conspiracies was not already ruined, the media assault that followed certainly finished him. He was accused of, amongst other things, travelling to Switzerland with Buford to empty the Temple's bank accounts in her name. Whether Lane was duped or purchased does not really matter; the end result was the same. Jones has silenced the foremost critic of the CIA, while at the same time using that person to file a suit against the CIA to disassociate himself with the agency in those last few critical months of Jonestown."36

It seems entirely plausible that Jonestown might have been timed to influence a major congressional investigation in which the CIA stood to have its dirtiest laundry aired before the public. Is it merely co-incidence that the appearance of the SLA some years earlier provided a similar distraction for the public at the time the CIA's involvement in Watergate was coming under scrutiny ?

Do You Believe the Lie?

As the revolving door turns, many strange 'coincidences' have occurred. Another is the fact that Dr Louis Jolyon West...

"...was further known as the psychiatrist who was called upon to examine Jack Ruby, Lee Harvey Oswald's assassin. It was on the basis of West's diagnosis that Ruby was compelled to be treated for mental disorders and put on happy pills. The West examination was ordered after Ruby began to say he was part of a right-wing conspiracy to kill President John Kennedy."

West testified that Ruby had sunk into a "paranoid state manifested by delusions, visual and auditory hallucinations and suicidal impulses", and asserted that he was not faking these symptoms since he had vigorously rejected repeated suggestions that he was mentally ill. West reported, "The true malingerer usually grasps eagerly at such an explanation", and since Ruby would not admit to being crazy, he diagnosed him as being such and placed him on medication.

At that time, West was head of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma and was conducting research for the CIA on LSD, hypnosis and "the psychobiology of disassociated states".

Might Ruby have been less than comfortable having West as his psychiatrist? During his testimony before Judge Earl Warren, Ruby pleaded:

"I wish our beloved President, Lyndon Johnson, would have delved deeper into the situation, hear me, not to accept just circumstantial facts about my guilt or innocence, and would have questioned to find out the truth about me before he relinquished certain powers to

these certain people ... Consequently, a whole new form of government is going to take over our country [emphasis added], and I know I won't live to see you another time."37

In 1967, Ruby complained that he was being poisoned. He was diagnosed as having cancer, but just weeks later died of a stroke similar to that which killed David Ferrie, Jim Garrison's key witness for his New Orleans-based investigation into the JFK assassination.

Say No to The New Inquisition

In 1985, the Citizen's Freedom Foundation changed its name to the Cult Awareness Network in an attempt to distance itself from the reputation it had gained for conducting violent and illegal activities. Today, their influence with official government agencies is steadily growing stronger, as was demonstrated by their recent involvement as advisers to the FBI Behavioural Sciences Unit before the raid at Waco.

The fact that groups such as the Cult Awareness Network are supported by intelligence agency assets within the fields of psychiatry and psychology, further diminishes their credibility, particularly since:

"...psychiatry knows little of the benefits of religion, since it seldom assesses it either as an independent variable in association with emotional health or as a dependent variable of a psychotherapeutic or psychosocial intervention. This has resulted in substantially different conclusions. For example, in its crassest form, psychiatry views religion as neurotic, immature or a solace for the mentally disturbed. This is at variance with empiric generalisations from other psychosocial research which demonstrates that the mentally ill are less religious and engage in less religious activity, whereas the psychologically healthy are more religious and engage in more religious activities."38

Equally, it would be ridiculous to suggest that human rights

abuses do not take place within religious (or political) organisations, be they mainstream or alternative. Wherever such abuses are occurring, in any sphere of human activity, they should be investigated and put to a halt, but only lawfully and by reputable and unbiased authorities. Organisations such as the Cult Awareness Network are neither qualified nor politically independent, and their members often act illegally.

For these reasons, we must say no to the cultural engineers of The New Inquisition.

Footnotes:

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MISSING TIME INVESTIGATIONS

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